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Subject: Monitoring of Press and Propaganda Broadcasts of Foreign Powers

Reference

(a) C.I.G. Directive No. 2 dated 5 March 1916.
(b) Report of Ad Hoc Committee to Survey Foreign Broadcasting

Intelligence Service dated 18 March 1946.

La The Problems

g. During the war, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) conducted a foreign broadcast intelligence service (FRIS) which monitored press and propagands broadcasts of foreign powers. The FCC was in process of liquidating this agency when its functions were taken over by the War Department on an interim basis on 30 December 1945.

b. The product of the FRIS was valuable to State Department, to the intelligence agencies of the War and Havy Departments, to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and undoubtedly to other Departments and agencies.

c. The War Department has requested that a permanent disposition of the functions of monitoring press and propagants broadcasts of foreign powers be determined since the interim arrangements will cease at the end of the Fiscal Year 1916.

2. Discussion:

escent.

Temi Tek a. The function of monitoring press and propaganda broadcasts of foreign powers is an overt means of obtaining intelligence information of use to the intelligence agencies of State, War and Navy Departments.

<u>b.</u> (1) The function of monitoring press and propaganda broadcasts of foreign powers was originally undertaken by FBIS under the FCC early in 19th as a result of recommendations made by the Dafense Communications Board.

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(2) The FRIS was organized functionally into an effice of the Director which gave general supervision to the service; a Monitoring Rivision responsible for making up the monitoring schedule for all FRIS stations and of providing excepts from programs monitored near Machington; A Publications Division responsible for preparing and issuing reports on incoming broadcasts for rapid distribution to government agencies requesting them and for maintaining a central background file; an Administrative Services Rivision responsible for mineographing, collating, and distributing the processed reports and a field organization responsible for operating field stations located at strategic points for interception of foreign broadcasts not monitored in the Washington area. In addition, the field organization contained offices located at London and Cairo which have access to similar material monitored by BEC and NOI respectively.

(3) The War Department was informed in December 1945 that
the FOO was in process of liquidating the FRIS. The New Department
thereupon expanded its monitoring program to meet the need arising from
this liquidation. The War Department employed former FRIS personnel,
effective 30 December 1945, and all FRIS facilities, including those held
by lease or contract, were acquired by the War Department on lean or by
transfer. The War Department arranged for the renegotiation of outstanding leases and contracts. It acquired by loan fixed facilities and
equipment owned by FOC necessary to continued FRIS operations.

c. The function of monitoring foreign press and propaganda broadcasts should be continued since it is of value to the intelligence agencies of War, State, and Havy. The necessary budget arrangements to maintain this function should be made for the Fiscal Year 1947. The War Department is the only agency now prepared to undertake this budget

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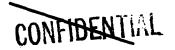
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problem and it has included the necessary funds in its budget requirements.

- d. It appears that the present organization carrying on the former functions of the FMIS under War Department direction should be liquidated for the following reasons:
- (1) The function should be continued as an intelligence information collecting agency only. At present, its reports are circulated freely to any organizations or persons requesting same, including foreign agencies. Its product should be restricted to authorised intelligence agencies if proper intelligence direction is to be given to its activities.
- (2) The personnel working in the organisation should be screened for security prior to being accepted in the new organisation undertaking this function. This is essential since disclosure of the direction given to the activities of the organisation will necessarily provide intelligence information to any foreign country.
- g. Central direction of the activities of the organisation is required. Since the product of this organisation is of use to State, War, and Wavy in varying degrees, central direction is necessary to insure that the specific needs of the different Departments are considered. This direction could be given by a committee composed of a chairman and coordinator from the Central Intelligence Group and members from A-2, 0-2, ORI, and ORI.
- <u>f</u>. Any one of the three Departments concerned could operate this agency. Certain preliminary steps would be required before State or Navy could undertake its operating, including:
 - (1) Provision for the necessary administration and supply.
- (2) Transfer of the budget from War Department to the operating Department.
 - (3) Arrangement for the necessary communication facilities



h. Operation of this agency appears therefore to some under the provisions of sub-paragraph 30 of the President's Directive of 22 Jamery 1916 which stated that: "Subject to the existing law, and to the direction and control of the Mational Intelligence Authority. the Director of Central Intelligence shall * * * * g. perform, for the benefit of said Intelligence Agencies, such services of common concern as the National Intelligence Authority determines can be more efficiently accomplished centrally," Continued operation of this function by the War Department after liquidation of the existing organization is undesirable since it would practically deny the liquidation and since it would require militarisation of the new organisation with the attendant delays. Operation by the State Department at this time is not considered desirable, due to the fast that it would depend on the Office of Research and Intelligence continuing to be organized as a central intelligence facility. Operation by the Mavy is not considered desirable since it appears to obtain less value from the performance of this function than either of the other two interested Departments. It is therefore believed that this operation can be more efficiently accomplished centrally under the C.I.G.



between the field and Washington.

(b) Serecting of personnel for security purposes.

State Department operation hinges on the continuence of the office of Research and Intelligence. Continued operation by the War Department would require sersesing of the personnel also.

g. Operation under C.I.G. control would require that the same steps be taken as outlined in f shows with particular emphasis on arrangements being made for the necessary administration and supply.

3. It is concluded that:

- g. The function of monitoring foreign press and propagands. broadcasts should be continued under the C.I.C.
- b. The present organization fulfilling this function under War Department direction should be liquidated and the War Department should continue operational control during the liquidation.
- c. The Central Intelligence Group should take over direction of this function, including the period of liquidation. This should be done by provision for a committee with C.I.G. chairmanship, membership by A-2, C-2, ORI, and ONI.
- d. The Director of Central Intelligence should be responsible for issuing the necessary directives to effect the liquidation.
- e. The Director of Central Intelligence should be responsible for determining which funds, personnel and facilities are required by the C.I.G. to continue the functions and for making the necessary administrative arrangements for their transfer. He should be responsible also for determining what additional facilities are required to be continued by the State, War and Mavy Departments (such as communication facilities) and for making the necessary arrangements. In addition, he should determine when the G.I.G. is capable of taking over the function

and operating the organization required to carry it on-

f. The War Department should take the necessary budgetary action to carry out this program.

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It is recommended that:

- A. The conclusions contained in paragraph 3 above be approved.
- b. Each member of the Intelligence Advisory Board designate a number of a countttee for which the C.I.G. will furnish the chairson and whose function will be to give direction to the function of monitoring press and propagands broadcasts of foreign powers.
- g. The draft directive in enclosure A, implementing the conclusions, be approved for submission to the N.I.A.